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R 111345Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7799
INFO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0217
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0702
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 3851

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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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DEPT FOR IO, G/AIAG, ISN, and EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [AORC](#) [PREL](#) [KFLU](#) [WHO](#) [CY](#)

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: DEMARCHE ON KEY U.S. OBJECTIVES AT THE ANNUAL WORLD
HEALTH ASSEMBLY

REF: STATE 61739

(U) This cable is sensitive but unclassified. Please protect
accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) Per reftel request, post delivered on May 10 demarche on
the upcoming World Health Assembly (WHA) meeting in Geneva, May
14-23, 2007, to Dr. Andreas Polynikis, Chief Health Officer at the
Ministry of Health. Dr. Polynikis will represent Cyprus at the WHA.

Avian Influenza

¶2. (SBU) Dr. Polynikis noted that the GoC strongly supports
international cooperation on avian influenza preparedness, including
the sharing of influenza virus samples.

Smallpox

¶3. (SBU) Regarding smallpox, Polynikis noted that the GOC had no
objection to continued research and retention of official smallpox
virus stocks by the United States and the Russian Federation for
scientific purposes.

Cypriot Priorities

¶4. (SBU) Dr. Polynikis reported that as a small country Cyprus did
not expect to be able to influence decisions at the WHA and did not
have specific objectives. He noted that avian influenza
preparedness is one of the GoC's main public health priorities.

SCHLICHER